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wild plants and the cultivation of the useful ones. The second part bears the date 1875 and is more special in its nature, being in fact a popular flora of Scandinavia. The volumes are interesting throughout. We shall hope to transfer to our General Notes some of Professor Schübeler's statements respecting the remarkable climate of Norway, and the occurrence of Southern plants near the Arctic circle.

BOTANISCHER JAHRESBERICHT.[1] — Annual Report on Botany, by Dr. Just, of Carlsruhe. The second year of this valuable compendium is an improvement on the first. The several departments of botany are conducted by different men, chiefly specialists, and in a careful manner. The articles which have appeared in the journals, and proceedings of societies, are given in abstract. Besides these there are very good critiques of the botanical books for the year (1874). The Year-Book is of great value to all botanists who wish to keep up with the published researches, and who have not time to study all the journals. It must be said, moreover, that the range of periodicals from which Dr. Just and his associates have selected their notes is very wide, comprising many chemical and agricultural journals, which are not likely ordinarily to fall in a botanist's way. Technologists and chemists have had their annuals for several years, and it is high time that botanists should fare as well. Botanists ought to congratulate themselves that the task has fallen into such good hands, and they should see to it that the enterprise is sustained.

KNEELAND'S AMERICAN IN ICELAND.[2] — This little book, issued about the same time as Judge Caton's Summer in Norway, affords fresh evidence that American tourists are taking more interest than formerly in Northern Europe, particularly the Scandinavian peninsula and the islands to the westward, the homes of the Northmen. Dr. Kneeland's book is an intelligent and by no means dull account of Iceland, preceded by pleasant sketches of the Orkney, Shetland, and Faroe Islands, as seen during a voyage of a few weeks in 1874, the year of the thousandth anniversary of the settlement of Iceland by the Northmen.

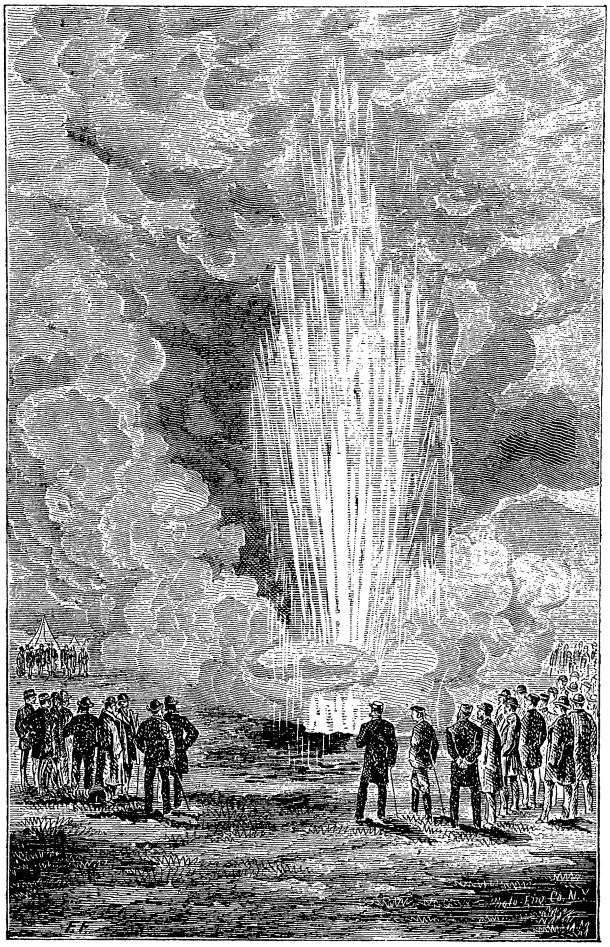
Our readers will examine with much interest the chapter on the Physical Characters of Iceland, in which the author adopts the view that Iceland was uplifted towards the end of the glacial epoch, and that this explains the traces of a milder climate in Greenland before the advent of man. At present the geographical position of Iceland is therefore very important, as "with Jan Meyen and Spitzbergen it forms a natural barrier against the desolation of Northern Europe by the ice from Arctic regions; should Iceland disappear beneath the waters, Nor-

[1] Berlin: Gebrüder Bornträger, 1875, 1876.

[2] *An American in Iceland.* An Account of its Scenery, People, and History. With a Description of its Millennial Celebration in August, 1874; with Notes on the Orkney, Shetland, and Faroe Islands, and the Great Eruption of 1874. By SAMUEL KNEELAND. With Map and Nineteen Illustrations. Boston: Lockwood, Brooks, & Co. 1876. 12mo, pp. 326. $2.50.

way would have the cold of Greenland, the north of England would become frozen, and Greenland would be green again."

Now that we have in Montana the Yellowstone Park, with its hundreds of geysers, some throwing loftier streams than the Great Geyser of Iceland, which sends a shower not over one hundred feet high, the Haukadaly Valley of Iceland must hereafter assume a more modest place in our geographies. But for many years more travelers will see



ERUPTION OF STROKR, AUG. 5, 1874.

(FIG. 18.)

the geyser of Iceland than those of Montana. Our figure (18), kindly loaned by the publishers, illustrates the Strokr or "churn" geyser, after it has been irritated "by pouring a cart-load of sods down its capacious

throat." The column of water is about one hundred feet high, and while the geyser is recovering from the effects of this novel emetic we leave the subject of Iceland and its sensitive interior.

HASSARD'S FLORAL DECORATIONS.[1] — This little manual seems to us to be quite novel in some of its features, and certainly very attractive. It will afford many a new suggestion, and the hints are in good taste. We select the titles of a few chapters to give some idea of the scope of the work: Preparing Flowers, Wiring Flowers, Gumming Flowers, Keeping Prepared Flowers Fresh; Plants through the Table, Decorations for Buffets; Table Decorations for Christmas Day; Arrangement of Fruit for Dessert; Vases for the Breakfast-Table; Vases for the Drawing-Room; Button-Hole Bouquets and Coat Flowers; Pot Plants in Rooms; Window Gardening, Hanging-Baskets, Fern-Cases, Stands of Plants; Plant-Stands for Halls; The Grouping of Plants in Rooms.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. — Myths of the New World. By D. G. Brinton. Second Edition, revised, from New Plates. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 8vo. $2.50.

Angola and the River Congo. By Joachim John Monteiro. With Map and Illustrations. New York: Macmillan & Co. 1876. 12mo, pp. 354. $2.50.

Contributions à l'Histoire de la Vésicule germinative et du premier Noyau embryonnaire. Par Édouard van Beneden. Bruxelles. 1876. 8vo, pp. 50. With a Plate.

Beobachtungen über die Arten der Blatt und Holzwespen. Von C. G. A. Brischke und Dr. G. Zaddach. 4to, pp. 23–89. 1875. With Three Plates.

Birds. (From the Encyclopædia Britannica, ninth edition, iii. 728–778.) By Alfred Newton. 4to.

Geological Survey of Alabama. Report of Progress for 1875. By E. A. Smith. Montgomery, Alabama. 1876. 8vo, pp. 220.

Geological Survey of New Jersey. Annual Report of the State Geologist for the Year 1875. By Geo. H. Cooke. Trenton. 1875. 8vo, pp. 41. With a Map.

The Affinity of the Mollusca and Molluscoida. By W. K. Brooks. (From the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, xviii. 225–235, 1876.)

Botanical Articles. By Prof. W. G. Farlow. Extracted from the Bulletin of the Bussey Institution, March, 1876. 8vo, pp. 404–454. With Six Plates.

Bulletin of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. Vol. ii., No. 2, Art. 1. Studies of the American Falconidæ. By Robert Ridgway. Art. 2. Ornithology of Guadaloupe Island. By Robert Ridgway. Washington, D. C. April 1, 1876. 8vo, pp. 91–195. With Two Plates.

Notes on the Locust Invasion of 1874, in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. By G. M. Dawson. Montreal. 1876. 8vo, pp. 16. (From the Canadian Naturalist.)

Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. Vol. iii., Nos. 11–14. Cambridge. March 27, 1876. 8vo, pp. 273–348.

Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science. Vol. iv. Topeka. 1875. 8vo, pp. 63.

[1] *Floral Decorations for the Dwelling-House.* A Practical Guide to the Home Arrangements of Plants and Flowers. By ANNIE HASSARD. American Edition, revised. With many Illustrations. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. 1876. 12mo, pp. 166. $1.75.